



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside
4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506
<https://FirstChurchRiverside.org>

Order of Worship

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost; Back-to-Church Month
Family Sunday with The Response Praise Band
September 20, 2026, 10 am

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "Fidelis Servus (Faithful Servant)" by Dom Paul Benoit / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***INTROIT:** "The Lord Is in His Holy Temple" by C. Albert Scholin / The Aldersgate Chorale

***OPENING HYMN:** "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" by Chris Tomlin, John Newton, and Louie Giglio / **All** / Led by The Response, Hymn Leaders

Verse 1

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
was blind but now I see.**

Verse 2

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.**

Chorus

**My chains are gone. I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood his mercy rains,
unending love, amazing grace.**

Verse 3

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

Chorus

Instrumental

Chorus

Verse 4

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine,
will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** / Led by Sarah Overton Fraser, Liturgist

(Liturgist) Family of God, we gather to join our voices with all creation:

(People) Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!

(L) God is our Creator who loves us and cares for us.

(P) Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!

(L) God is our Savior who redeems us and teaches us to boldly love one another as God loves us.

(P) Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!

(L) God is our Advocate who sustains us and empowers us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

(P) Make a joyful noise, all the earth! Serve God with gladness!

(L) Family of God, on this journey of faith, we are not alone—God is with us!

(All) We come to worship God by boldly loving and joyfully serving, that we may be disciples of Jesus Christ who transform the world. Amen.

(Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, January 2026)

WELCOME / Pastor J. T. Kim

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Matthew 20)

(Pastor) The first shall be last and the last shall be first. In holy wisdom, let us seek the peace and welfare of one another as we share signs of Christ's peace. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

– Sharing of joys and concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON)

We worship you, O God, with joyful noise—with words of praise and adoration spoken and sung in the name of Jesus who brought your love song to us in person. You put new words in our mouths and new intentions in our hearts, especially a new understanding of power—power shaped by love and righteousness, justice and mercy. We now know that power is not to be used to exploit or dominate, but to serve others as willingly as Jesus did. His life and death demonstrated how the love of power could be transformed by the power of love. We gather here today to celebrate your rule of love in our hearts as we experience it in Jesus and through the enabling gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Adapted from the 6-week worship resources of "Embracing an Adverbial Faith," by Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church)

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Amen" (Dresden) / The Aldersgate Chorale

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Lucinda Edmunds

INTERLUDE: "New Creation" by Mac Powell, Hank Bentley and Jeff Pardo / The Response

SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 4:8-11 (NRSVue) / Liturgist

Serve One Another

⁸ Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaining. ¹⁰ Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. "Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

(Liturgist) This is the word of God for the people of God!

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Ascribe to the Lord" by Joseph M. Martin / The Aldersgate Chorale

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 10:35-45** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Son of Man Came Not to Be Served but to Serve

³⁵ James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." ³⁶ And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" ³⁷ And they said to him, "Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." ³⁸ But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" ³⁹ They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, ⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

(All) Glory to you, O Christ! Amen!

SERMON: "IF YOU WANT TO BE GREAT" (Sermon series, *"Embracing Acts of Faith,"*

#4 of 6) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

"SERVANT OF ALL" by Michael Ryan, led by Pastor Kim / **ALL**

If you want to be great in God's kingdom, learn to be a servant of all.

If you want to be great in God's kingdom, learn to be a servant of all.

Learn to be a servant of all. Learn to be a servant of all.

If you want to be great in God's kingdom, learn to be a servant of all.

***HYMN OF DEDICATION:** "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" by Peter Scholtes / **ALL**
Verse 1

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Verse 2

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.

And together we'll spread the news that God is in the land.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Verse 3

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side.

And we'll guard human dignity and save human pride.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Verse 4

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,

and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,

and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Psalm 105) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) In the wilderness of our lives, God's grace is like water flowing from a rock, transforming arid desert into flowing rivers. In thanksgiving for God's mercy, let us give from our abundance as we collect today's offering.

(All) Amen!

(Liturgist) I invite the ushers to receive our offerings.

OFFERTORY: "The Servant Song" by Richard Gillard, arranged by Alan Bullard

***OFFERING SONG:** "As We Seek Your Face" / "Jesus, Draw Me Close" by Dave Bilbraugh and Rick Founds / **All** / Led by Rev. Bev Devine

**As we seek your face, may we know your heart;
feel your presence, acceptance, as we seek your face.
Jesus, draw me close, closer, Lord, to you.
Let the world around me fade away.
Jesus, draw me close, closer, Lord, to you.
For I desire to worship and obey.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (Psalm 100, 1 Peter 4:8-11) / Led by Liturgist
Joyful Giver of Every Good Gift, you call us to serve with glad hearts, to offer what we have with joy, and to love one another deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins. Receive these gifts as acts of praise. Use them to build up the body, to speak your truth with grace, and to serve others with strength not our own. Let us give not out of duty but as joyful stewards of your manifold grace, that in all things, through Christ, you may be glorified. In the name of the one who serves with us, Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN:** "Down by the Riverside" (Traditional) / **All**

Verse 1

**I'm gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside;
I'm gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside;
I'm gonna study war no more!**

Chorus

**I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more,
I ain't gonna study war no more;
I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more,
I ain't gonna study war no more!**

Verse 2

**I'm gonna put on my long white robe, down by the riverside,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside;
I'm gonna put on my long white robe, down by the riverside;
I'm gonna study war no more! (Chorus)**

Verse 3

**I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside,
down by the riverside, down by the riverside;
I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside;
I'm gonna study war no more! (Chorus)**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE: "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" by Dale Wood

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

Jaque Vaca, Christina Maddox's nephew Charlie (10 yrs.), Linda Rydzik, John McDonald,
Julian Cardenas, Vivian Lowe, Julie Williams, Reko Williams, Neko Williams, David Cardenas,
Patrick Russell, Isaiah Whisner, Cynthia Diaz, Ruth Martinez, Don Larsen, Susan Reardon, Rollin Edmunds,
Gary Spencer, Lee Ann Salmon, Dean Michalka, James Herron, Eric Russler, Tom Kennedy,
Christina Graves, Bob Bahnsen, Virginia Bahnsen, Regan Pope, Eduardo Reyes, Tina Dungan, Lupe Vela,
Ronnie Tovar, Roger Murray, Lolita Manacop, Sharon Henry, Jun Valino, Jon Dugan, Marie Madden,
Gitanjali Spencer, George Callow, Norma Nelson, Ed Lamers, Mack Davis, Pat Beals, Michael Thompson,
Marge Wolter, Melissa Williams, Mary Herrmann, Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke,
Michelle Arguelles, John and Susan Logger, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Robert and Benita Roberts,
Scott and DeAnn McWilliams, the family of Grace Reyes,
our families, neighbors, country, and world

Coming Soon!

NEXT: New Members Welcoming Sunday will be October 11th!

**If you have not discussed with Pastor Kim your desire to join the church yet,
please do so. Pastor Kim, (951) 683-7831, pastorjtkime@firstchurchriverside.org
or inform the church office: (951) 683-7831, secretary@firstchurchriverside.org**

THIS WEEK AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This Week

Sunday, September 20

- Bible Study w/Brent (Chandler Lounge) - 8:30 - 9:45 am
- Family Sunday Worship with The Response; Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost. Pastor Kim's sermon: **"IF YOU WANT TO BE GREAT"** (Sermon series, ***"Embracing Acts of Faith,"*** #4 of 6) (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am - 11 am
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Dinner (Youth Room) - 5 pm
- Small Group Bible Study w/Lucinda (Zoom) - 5 pm
- contact: lucindaedmunds1@outlook.com for link

Monday, September 21

- Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom) - 5:30 pm

Tuesday, September 22

- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - 7-8 pm

Wednesday, September 23

- Parents Morning Out (Preschool Room 2) - 9 am to noon
- UWF "Walk About" (off campus) - 6:30 am
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - 6:30 pm

Thursday, September 24

- Bible Study w/Richard (Chandler Lounge) - 10:30 am
- Aldersgate Chorale rehearsal (Music Room) - 7 pm
- Study group led by Rev. Roy Riggs: "Social Principles of the United Methodist Church" (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 pm

Friday, September 25

- Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen) - 7 am

Sunday, September 27

- Bible Study w/Brent (Chandler Lounge) - 8:30 - 9:45 am
- Worship: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost; New Members Welcome Sunday; Pastor Kim's sermon: **"TRUST AND OBEY"** (Sermon series, ***"Embracing Acts of Faith,"*** #5 of 6) (Sanctuary) - 10 am
- Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - 10:15 am - 11 am
- Youth Worship - 10:15 am (2nd and 4th Sundays)
- American Red Cross Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall) - 8 am - 1 pm
- Small Group Bible Study w/Lucinda (Zoom) - 5pm - 7pm
- "The Habit" Fundraiser, 3555 Riverside Plaza Drive, Suite S-100. Must show printed flyer or show flyer on cell phone. Flyers in the Narthex. Church will earn 20% of sales. 11 am - 9 pm

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